

From: [Gail Zuniga](#)
To: erda.sm.rggi@programs
Subject: I have lived in, or close to, NY my entire life. I am 45 yrs old. RGGI Operating Plan
Date: Sunday, January 3, 2021 12:17:32 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider the following comments on NYSERDA's RGGI Operating Plan Amendment for 2021:

I realize that it is challenging to make a case for the long-term benefits of addressing climate change. I understand that it might not seem cost effective in the short term. But I think we can all agree given our current circumstances, that we are all connected. Short-term gains should no longer be a priority. In fact, the emphasis on short-term rather than long-term goals has brought us many, if not most, of our current difficulties.

Think of our water delivery/pipe system. I am 100% for enforcing antitrust legislation. Let's break up Amazon, Google and Facebook. But water companies are the outlier; there are too many water companies per community and this makes efficiency and understanding or comparing data difficult. We don't want Flint, Michigan to happen in NYS.

My husband was young in Sunnyside Queens and then older in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. As an immigrant to this country, his family was not wealthy; they lived simply. My husband is not an old man, but he was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease 11 years ago. Around the same time, he was also diagnosed with asthma. His brother, Marco, died of colon cancer, his sister, Mayra, died of lung cancer (leaving 3 boys behind, the youngest 9) and his mother, Teresa, died of a stroke...It makes you wonder...it really does. What might have been in the water? What were they breathing? What do we want as a society? What is really important?

RGGI funds will be an important part of expanding good green jobs in New York during this uniquely difficult time in the state's history. The benefits of spending money in disadvantaged communities is a much higher commitment than the concept of the benefits being "realized" in disadvantaged communities as articulated in the draft plan.

I also oppose the assumption in the amendment that Legislature will seek a transfer of RGGI funds for the state's general fund and/or to support programs of the Environmental Protection Fund. Over the course of the program, \$228 million of RGGI funds have been pulled out of the RGGI program to the state General Fund, depriving New Yorkers of funding that could have lowered energy bills and created good jobs. In light of the tremendous needs for pollution reductions in disadvantage communities, the past raids of RGGI funds must now come to an end.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Gail Zuniga